

**Informative-Explanatory Essay Writing Guide (Grades 6-8)**

Statement of Purpose/ Focus and Organization	Evidence/Elaboration	Editing/Conventions
<p>The essay is fully developed and focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main idea is focused, clearly stated, and strongly maintained.• Main idea is introduced and communicated clearly for the purpose, audience, and task. <p>The response has a clear and effective organizational structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A variety of transitional strategies are used to effectively clarify the relationships between ideas.• Development of ideas from beginning to end is logical.• Introduction and conclusion are effective for audience and purpose.• Appropriate sentence structure variety produces strong connections among ideas.	<p>The essay provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the controlling idea or main idea and includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of evidence from sources is complete and smoothly integrated and cited.• A variety of effective elaborative strategies are used. <p>The response demonstrates strategic use of language to produce clear communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Precise language clearly and effectively expresses ideas.• Use of academic and topic-specific vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose.	<p>The essay displays adequate command of all grade-level conventions of writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some errors in usage and sentence formation may be present, but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed.• Use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling is adequate.

References and Citations

When referring to evidence and information from passages, students should use paraphrasing and short quotations. To credit sources, students should use informal, in-text citations (e.g., MLA author or title tags).